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Report - FBIS Automation

ORD-387-82

26 MAY 1982

MEMORANUDM FOR: *John* Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

FROM: Philip K. Eckman
Director of Research and Development

SUBJECT: Machine Aids to Translation System

1. The testbed computer system developed under ORD's Machine Aids to Translation (MAT) project has been turned over to FBIS for its evaluation and use. This system was developed by CRW Incorporated, under ORD sponsorship, as a testbed to bring together several existing technologies in such a way that might assist the translation process. ORD is pleased with the results and that the system has been adopted by FBIS; we will continue to follow its use. We stand ready to assist in future efforts to explore ways to apply current and advanced technologies to the translation process.

2. Last September, ORD contracted for some additional work to correct some system flaws that were inhibiting a proper FBIS user evaluation of the system. We assume the results of the evaluation were positive as you have recently funded some enhancements to the system. In light of the fact that this system is no longer an ORD research and development activity, we have turned over the contract technical monitoring responsibilities to your office for this additional effort. We understand that you will be making arrangements with Office of Logistics to contract directly for maintenance and support in FY83, as the current ORD contract for these services expires 30 September 1982. [redacted] of my Contracts Staff can provide information on the MAT contracts managed here in ORD.

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3. You should be aware that certain investments that are usually made early in the development cycle of production-oriented systems to ensure they perform in a reliable and cost-effective manner were not made for the ORD developed testbed system. These investments include features to ensure fail safe operations, ease of maintenance, reliable system performance, etc. We would advise you to review the long-range plan for the testbed system and consider upgrading it to ensure its reliability and cost-effective operation. We would be available to assist in this review if you desire.

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Philip K. Eckman

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